



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 46

January Session, 2011

Senate Bill No. 888

Senate, March 8, 2011

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. HARTLEY of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS FROM TELECOMMUNICATOR TRAINING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 28-30 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2011*):

4 (d) The office shall issue a written acknowledgment of achievement,
5 without participation in a telecommunicator training program, to (1)
6 any person who, by reason of experience or specialized training
7 demonstrates competence in the performance of telecommunicator
8 training standards as developed by the office, or (2) any police officer
9 certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and
10 certified as a medical response technician.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	28-30(d)
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PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Various Municipalities	Savings	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Explanation

This bill would result in a potential minimal savings for municipal police departments.

The savings would stem from any potential overtime costs incurred while a police officer is at training for certification. The telecommunicator training program requires 24 hours of training over a four day period and a 2 hour examination.

Any officer employed who performs the duties of a telecommunicator, maintains minimum skills, and is in good standing as a telecommunicator for no less than four years over the five year certification period may apply for a written acknowledgement for recertification from the Department of Public Safety. These officers would not need to repeat the training program but are required to retake the 2 hour examination for recertification.

Background

The cost of the telecommunicator training program is free of charge. In calendar year 2010, 120 telecommunicators were certified and 289 were recertified by the Department of Public Safety's Office of Education and Data Management.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, 2010 Annual Report to the General Assembly; E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Service State of Connecticut

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 888*****AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS FROM
TELECOMMUNICATOR TRAINING.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill exempts from telecommunicator training police officers certified (1) by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) and (2) as medical response technicians. Current law already exempts anyone who, by reason of experience or specialized training, demonstrates competence in performing telecommunicator training standards developed by the Office of State-wide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET). As is currently the case for anyone exempt, police officers must get a written acknowledgement of achievement from OSET. Telecommunicators take 9-1-1 calls and dispatch emergency assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***POST***

POST is responsible for training, certifying, and establishing minimum qualifications for municipal police officers.

OSET

OSET, in cooperation with public safety agencies:

1. sets minimum training standards for telecommunicators, develops examination programs for them, and certifies those who meet the required standards;
2. certifies telecommunicator instructors; and
3. coordinates the delivery of telecommunicator training programs,

as required, to public safety agencies.

OSET pays for telecommunicator training and reimburses some training-related overtime costs with money from the state's E 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 28-24-8). Money for the fund comes from fees assessed against subscribers of local telephone and commercial mobile radio services.

Telecommunicator Training

The law defines a "telecommunicator" as anyone employed as a telecommunications operator by a public or private safety agency primarily to receive or process calls for emergency assistance or dispatch emergency services provided by public safety agencies and who receives or disseminates emergency assistance information by radio or telephone.

By law, telecommunicators must be certified by OSET. To be certified, they must complete 24 hours of training over four days and demonstrate proficiency in the performance of telecommunicator training program standards or successfully complete a two-hour written or oral OSET examination.

Under OSET regulations, telecommunicator training includes training in:

1. interpersonal communications;
2. public safety telecommunications systems;
3. basics of radio broadcasting;
4. public safety telecommunications record systems;
5. broadcast rules and procedures;
6. telephone techniques;
7. E 9-1-1 systems, functions, and operating procedures;

8. an overview of the functions of fire, police, and emergency dispatch procedures;
9. telecommunicator legal and liability issues;
10. hazardous material awareness; and
11. theory and use of radio signal codes (Conn. Agencies Regs §§ 28-30-1 and 28-30-7).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (02/22/2011)